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GREG FURMINGER/ POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Art conservator Laurence Gagne repairs and replaces lost and damaged lettering on Pelham's First World War cenotaph in Ridgeville. See story page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ HERITAGE

Names restored at Ridgeville cenotaph

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Laurence Gagné got the lead out — and put it right back in.

The art conservator who hails from Montreal last week was meticulously repairing the names of Pelham's war dead at the First World War cenotaph in Ridgeville.

Accustomed to working on projects in the concrete jungle, including having helped to restore the South African War Memorial in Toronto, she relished her latest job site: a triangular patch of grass over which a gentle breeze flows through large shade trees shielding her from the heat wave that has blanketed Niagara.

One by one, Gagné and others from Kingston-based Conservation Sculptures Monuments and Objects replaced lost and damaged lead letters and numbers on the granite pillar that pays tribute to the 18 local soldiers who fought in the 1914-18 war and lost their lives.

It was a time-consuming and exact process.

"To reproduce them, you have to look at it to see what was there," Gagné said as she went about her work.

Visitors who look closely, for example, will notice left corners of No. 1's are cut off at a 45-degree angle.

Of 920 lead letters on the monument, at least 10 had gone missing, 10 partially missing and three damaged.

"It's amazing how much work goes into fixing one character, one number," said history buff Gary Chambers.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Art conservator Laurence Gagne repairs and replaces lost and damaged lettering on Pelham's First World War cenotaph in Ridgeville.

He remarked at the site how the surface of the monument at Memorial Dr. and Canboro Rd. has been "delicately" cleaned to wash away moss and discolouration caused by the elements over 95 years.

"It's going to be beautiful," added citizen historian Carolyn Botari.

"It's just in remarkable shape for being almost 100 years old."

The pair were among people who expressed outrage last winter when the town's initial plans called for the monument's four sides to be shaved to eliminate any existing lead lettering, depressions or holes created by the lead lettering method and then be resurfaced and re-lettered by engraving.

Alexander Gabov owns the 15-year-old conservation company hired by the municipality.

"It's a very slow process, and you have one chance to make it 'stick and stay,'" he said of the new lettering that conforms to an old tradition.

As certified conservators, he and his employees must restore objects as they were originally intended to appear.

A special protective coating was applied to make the letters — lead turns white over time — more legible against the cenotaph's grey granite.

"Obviously, the legibility here is the most important part," Gabov said by phone. "It's important to see and read those names."

CSMO's clients have included McMaster University, City of Brantford, Fort Henry, Ontario Heritage Trust, Queen's University, Parks Canada and National Museum of Mongolia.

The cenotaph will be rededicated at a later date.

The original estimate for the cenotaph work had been about $33,600, but because its scope changed, it was done by CSMO for a cost of $13,285, said town chief administrative officer Darren Ottaway, who called the monument "a real symbol of pride in the community."

Veterans Affairs Canada is to cover half the restoration cost.

Ottaway said plans to landscape the site, which is expected to include paving bricks, gardens and illumination of the flagpole, will be budgeted for next year.

The monument was erected in 1920 by Rigg's Bros. of Niagara Falls at a cost of $1,500.

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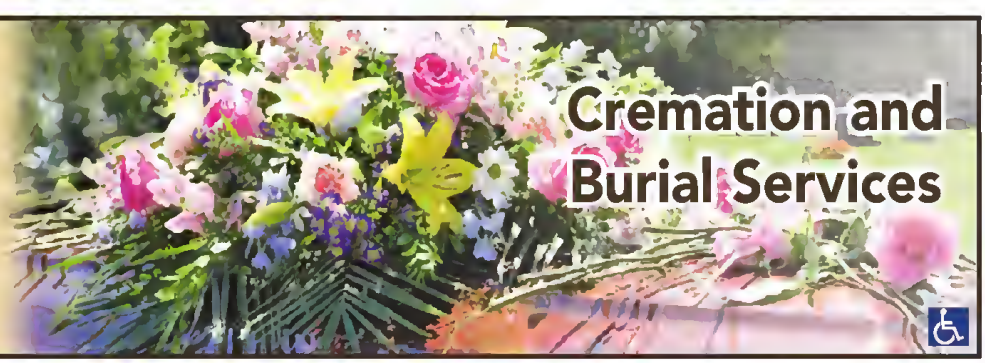

LOCALNEWS

■ **EQUESTRIAN:** Fonthill girl and her Beau

Young rider earns dressage gold in Kentucky

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

The horse-trailer was a little bit heavier as it left Kentucky. It was hauling a gold medal after a week of competition, after all.

Sixteen-year-old Georgia Wade of Fonthill, with her equine partner, 14-year-old thoroughbred/draft-cross Beau, competed as part of the Canadian team at the North American Junior and Young Riders Championships in Lexington, Ky., July 14 to 19.

Wade competed in both the individual dressage test and as part of the Ontario Junior dressage team with three teammates from across the province. Together, the four young riders rode to a team score of 200.920, earning them a spot at the top of the podium.

"With the team, it made it quite a bit more relaxed because you have all those girls around you helping you out and supporting you, so it was a lot of fun," said Wade.

She has been riding for about 11 years, starting in the bunter-jumper discipline and moving into the world of dressage about four years ago.

"I've always loved dressage. I like jumping and I like hunter, but that's not where my passion is. So when we found Janet, we kind of went with it," she said.

She moved her leased pony to Rivendell Farms in Port Colborne to ride with coach Janet Henderson.

"Georgia has been beyond her years in dedication right from the start," Henderson said of her young student.

After competing at the Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships in Calgary a couple years ago, Wade and her family decided to look for a horse to buy and compete with. They purchased Beau in October 2013 and began to work on getting him to where he is now.

"We brought Beau home and I have to say, we have a pretty amazing team here at the barn," said Henderson.

Her daughter is an equine veterinarian, her son a farrier as is her son-in-law, and she said the teamwork between the four of them has allowed Beau to maintain optimal health, an important factor that allows him to compete and work on such a demanding schedule.

"Between the four of us and Georgia's good work, we are where we are. But it's absolutely a team effort," said Henderson.

It seems to have paid off.

Wade and Beau took home a gold in the team competition and placed in the top 25 (out of 47 competitors in her division) in the individual test.

Henderson said Wade competed very well in her individual test, with a clean ride and no mistakes, but the competition was tough.

"There was one horse there coropeting who was in the 2012 Olympics at three levels above," she said.

Wade said Beau did an "awesome" job.

"From what we were getting last year to this year, it's a big improvement, and I'm very proud of him," she said. "He gave me his all every time we went into the ring."

Said Henderson: "The nice thing about Beau is that he is extremely junior/amateur friendly. He went into that facility and just went to work."

Wade said one of the best parts of the international competition,which included competitors from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, was getting to meet a lot of different competitors from different disciplines.

"We met eventers, endurance riders, jumpers and they were all very supportive," said Wade.

"It feels great because we're all coming from the same spots. We're all coming from the lower levels, working our way up, trying to find a horse and all working towards this."

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FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Georgia Wade and her horse Beau, at Rivendell Farms.

Pelham NEWS
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COMMENT

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Pan Am Games whets Olympic appetite

When it was announced that Toronto would host the Pan American Games, not everyone was thrilled.

Many naysayers panned the financial burden on the taxpayers, not just in the GTA but at various levels of government, the infrastructural challenges and, of course, the added snarl to traffic flow in a place it's not great to start with.

Constant road construction and delays has been a bug bear in Big Smoke and this would not help. The concept of special lanes specifically for Games use during the event, led to even more skeptical humour.

But they built it, and people came.

Toronto this time, but Canada again, showcased itself to the world as a quintessential host for event such as this. Crowds were at least as big and in many cases bigger than expected.

The opening ceremonies were epic, and despite more jokes and a failed petition to bar Kanye West from being the headliner at the closer Sunday did not seem to dampen the spirit of 40,000 who showed up at the Rogers Centre for the gala.

And then there were the sports and we saw a little bit of drama everywhere, usually the hallmark of international sporting meets.

Some of Canada's "next ones" had their coming out party.

The biggest name in that lot, sprinter Andre De Grasse, already anointed by some to be the next Donovan Bailey, enjoyed the sweet taste of victory in the 100 and 200 metre races, only to experience the agony of defeat after losing a third gold in a disqualification of the 4x100 metre relay team.

In addition to the many outstanding individual efforts, team sports were fun, too.

Who can forget that Vaudevillian ending to the men's baseball gold medal game, an extra-innings affair that saw the Americans literally throw the gold medal away.

And while some of our teams expected better results — soccer in particular — other teams excelled and showed they were on the precipice of greatness.

The best examples: men's basketball stacked with young talent with a silver, and our women winning gold in hoops.

After all Canada beating the U.S.A. in men's and women's basketball and baseball at the same Pan Ams isn't too shabby.

Canada's diversity and international recognition makes it a go-to destination for these kinds of events. So don't be surprised in Toronto bids for the 2024 Summer Olympics -- and don't be surprised if it's successful.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Elazig is pictured in this undated photo by Alex Duncan, courtesy of the Brockville Museum Collection.

Shipwrecks – Elazig

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

The Turkish freighter *Elazig* was a Great Lakes trader in 1970.

The ship had been built a decade earlier at Drammen, West Germany, and had briefly sailed as *Marosa* before being renamed later the first year.

The 116.28-metre-long cargo ship spent 28 years under this name and most of the service was apparently on Mediterranean area routes.

It ran aground at the entrance to the Dardanelles on March 27, 1983, on a voyage from Istanbul, Turkey, to Yugoslavia, but was released after four days. It resumed service but was laid up at the anchorage off Istanbul on Jan. 15, 1987, and was struck there by the passing freighter *Quixada* on Dec. 20, 1987. The idle vessel received heavy bow damage and was declared a total loss.

As a result, the hull was sold to Turkish shipbreakers and arrived at Aliaga under tow for dismantling on Sept. 25, 1988. While the ship was unlikely to operate again, the collision, while minding its own business in the anchorage, spurred the decision the scrap the vessel.

■ OMB

Municipalities teaming up against school board

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Half of Niagara's municipalities are teaming up in opposition to educational development charges being imposed by Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Port Colborne, Pelham, Fort Erie, Thorold, Wainfleet and Niagara-on-the-Lake — six of Niagara's 12 municipalities — each launched appeals against the Catholic school board's development charges bylaw, prior to the Ontario Municipal Board's deadline last Monday.

But Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney said he's surprised other municipalities are not taking action, too.

"I know it was an unpopular item at the Region," Maloney said.

Contacted last Tuesday morning, the OMB did not have a complete list of municipalities that appealed the school board's development charges because the information had yet to be compiled.

The Catholic school board's educational development charges bylaw came into effect June 22, meaning individuals and developers would be charged $172 charges for homes built within the former Welland County boundaries, and $186 for residential development in the old Lincoln County boundaries.

They are among the lowest educational development charges in the province, said school board education director John Crocco.

But municipalities such as Port Colborne and Wainfleet have placed moratoriums on their own development charges in the hope of spurring on development. And representatives of those communities feel the school board's actions fly in the face of their efforts.

"We want to encourage development and the citizens of Port Colborne are making a sacrifice with this moratorium," Maloney said. "And then the school board went under the wire and stifled what we are trying to stimulate."

But Crocco said the school board is trying to promote growth in Niagara, too.

"The economy of our region depends on excellent school systems," he said, adding funds collected through the development charges will allow the school board to meet growth needs throughout the region.

Last Monday night, Port Colborne council approved a motion directing city staff to move forward with its OMB appeal and to coordinate resources with other municipalities that are also appealing the school board's bylaw.

"I would think that the strength of numbers will certainly have a bearing," Maloney said, referring to teaming up with the other communities.

He said it might also help reduce the costs of the legal action.

"Most likely we'll be using the same legal council and that will save costs for all the communities involved and then we'll proceed," he said.

Thorold finance director Maria Mauro said her city council approved launching an OMB appeal at its July 14 meeting, and the city is also interested in teaming up with other municipalities.

"We're looking into that," she said. "We're just trying to schedule a meeting with all the parties."

Wainfleet's acting clerk, Sarah Smith, said township council held a special meeting recently to ensure the township's appeal could be submitted before the OMB deadline.

And like Port Colborne and other communities, she said Wainfleet, too, is hoping to save costs by teaming up.

"Staff was also directed to work with other municipalities in terms of establishing a single legal representation for all of the municipalities appealing on the same basis," she said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake also approved its OMB appeal last Monday, while Pelham and Fort Erie approved appealing the school board bylaw earlier in July.

Maloney said Port Colborne councillors are also concerned that funds raised by the school board in Port Colborne will "go into a larger pot," and could pay for school projects in other parts of Niagara.

"It's one thing to be levied a charge for your own community, but it doesn't sit well with many people that these funds could never come to Port Colborne, or may not come for years," he said.

Maloney said he'd prefer not to have to bring the issue to the OMB, hoping the school board will reconsider its decision to implement the development charges.

"Nobody wins when you go to court, but sometimes you have to take a stand," he said.

School board Chair Rev. Paul MacNeil said he hopes to continue working with municipalities to resolve concerns.

"It is important for us to continue to work together as a community for our students," he said in an e-mail. "I would also like to point out that we are aware of both the costs associated with land purchasing and site servicing for schools, as well as the need to stimulate growth in our region."

Crocco said the board held an open process while drafting its development charges bylaw, including meetings with municipal representatives and two public meetings to allow individuals, political leaders and developers to share their thoughts about the bylaw.

"It was very open and very transparent," Crocco said. "Every concern that was submitted as part of our vetting process ... and everything that was suggested as part of the consultation process was brought to our board and was taken seriously and it was weighed carefully in our decision."

He said there are also a lot of misconceptions regarding the educational development charges, such as a belief that the funds are used to build new schools. In fact, school boards can only use the funds to purchase of school sites and related costs such as bringing services to the property.

Crocco said a fact sheet regarding educational development charges as well as a list of all the steps the board took as part of the process of developing the bylaw has been posted on the school board's website, www.niagaracatholic.ca.

"We want to continue to work cooperatively with all 12 municipalities and the Region of Niagara," Crocco added.

Asked about the city's grounds for appealing the school board's decision as well as the chances of success, Maloney said that will be up to the city's lawyer to determine.

"We require a legal opinion from a lawyer grounded in OMB hearings and municipal law," he said. "We'll follow their lead certainly on the face of it. It does not sit well with the municipal corporations that have sort of picked up the gauntlet, and we'll wait to see what we're advised and what our chances of success are and take it from there."

Meanwhile, Crocco said school board staff are currently reviewing the OMB appeals and will report to the board at an upcoming meeting.

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LOCALNEWS

■ GETTING AROUND

Merittville Hwy. closing for a year at Lake Gibson

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

If you're heading to north Brock University in the fall, you're going to want to stick to Hwy. 406.

Merrittville Highway is set to close in early September at the Power Canal Bridge in Thorold for the span to be replaced.

The bridge replacement is the second phase of a two-part project — the first phase being the replacement of the Beaverdams Road Bridge.

The Beaverdams Road Bridge is scheduled to be completed at the end of August, and once done will be part of the posted detour for the Merrittville Hwy. closure, said Jason Marr, senior transportation project engineer at Niagara Region.

The detour posted will be Beaverdams Rd. to Collier Rd. N to St. David's Rd.

The total cost of the project is about $8 million, said Marr — $5 million for the Power Canal Bridge and $3 million for the Beaverdams Road Bridge.

Marr said the project is expected to be finished and the new Merrittville bridge over Lake Gibson open in August of next year.

The Beaverdams Road Bridge is on schedule, said Marr, and as the time draws closer, notices will be hand-delivered to residents and businesses that will be effected by the closure.

Merrittville Hwy. is a major north/south artery connecting Welland and Pelham to St. Catharines. It is a commonly travelled route for people to get to Brock University from the south.

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BROCK UNIVERSITY

Merrittville Hwy. between Decew Road and Beaverdams Road will be closed for nearly a year starting in early September as the bridge over Lake Gibson and adjoining causeway will be replaced.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Merrittville Highway will be closed at Decew Rd for almost a year as the bridge crossing Lake Gibson will be replaced.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Merrittville Highway will be closed at Decew Rd for almost a year as the bridge crossing Lake Gibson will be replaced.

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Sol-man

ROB HOULE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Marinko Jareb is a sol-man. The north St. Catharines disc jockey is harnessing the power of the sun to power his sound system. "I think that every business has the responsibility to reduce its carbon footprint," Jareb said of the motivation behind using renewable energy to charge up a battery pack that he uses to power his DJ equipment. Jareb uses 25- or 100-watt solar panels to charge the battery pack. When fully charged, he said the battery pack will give him enough juice to run his equipment for about six hours. He can tote the equipment around in a cart towed by a bicycle. He said Niagara Solar Sound System's target market is outdoor events where electricity is not readily available.

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LOCALNEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** School appoints acclaimed Canadian actor, aboriginal leader

Cheechoo named Brock chancellor

Richard Brown
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ROB HOULE
Postmedia Network

Brock University's incoming chancellor might he good for husiness.

Acclaimed Canadian actor/director/writer Shirley Cheechoo has heen named Brock's next chancellor, a ceremonial position that will see her confer degrees and awards at convocation ceremonies.

These days, her higgest preoccupation is preparing ahoriginal students for a post-secondary education.

Cheechoo, a Cree who has lived on Manitoulin Island for approximately 40 years, is executive director of the Weengushk Film Institute, a non-profit, artist-focused film and television-training centre she founded in 2002 that also teaches life skills, reading, writing and math.

Reached Thursday at the institute at M'chigeeng, she said 80% of graduates find work in film or television while 5% decide to return to school, having gained confidence and self-esteem while attending the institute.

She said the goal of the institute is to not only prepare graduates for a career in film and television, hut also help them make the leap to post-secondary institutions.

"One thing that I do recognize as an educator, I see ahoriginal youth ... they are really, really reluctant to go to good schools" in larger centres outside of Sudhury or North Bay, Cheechoo said.

"They don't want to make that change to go to Toronto, Ottawa, anywhere. When I ask them why .... they say, 'I don't want to go there, it's too complicated.'

"They go there and they get lost. And so they don't want to go."

She said she is working toward implementing "a transitional year" program at Weengushk. That program would involve preparing students for life in the cities in which they would like to study.

"Say they want to go to Brock University, we would tell them everything ahout St. Catharines — where to go, where there's native people, what goes on in St. Catharines," she said.

"And we would actually take them there, show them where the hus runs, show them where the hospital is. And then make the transition to the university."

Cheechoo said she speaks from experience and that she herself "was lost" when she went from small town northern Ontario to the University of Toronto.

"And it's still happening today," the 63-year-old said.

Cheechoo was horn in Eastmain, Que. in 1952, hut her early childhood was spent in Moose Factory along the James Bay coast. Her elementary education years were spent in residential schools, moving on to high schools in North Bay, Hearst and Sault Ste. Marie hefore attending the University of Toronto.

She was enrolled in physical education, hut dropped out to pursue her passion for the arts. She founded Deha-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Company, hased out of Manitoulin Island, in 1984. She said the company's name is derived from the Cree and Ojihway languages and means "storytellers."

She gained national acclaim in theatre for her play Path With No Moccassins. While she was in front of the camera in film and television heginning in 1984, she moved hehind the camera as producer and director in 1997 for the short film *Silent Tears*.

It was screened at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival and awarded the Telefilm Canada and Northern Canada Award for hest Canadian ahoriginal language program. Other directing credits include the television movie Johnny Tootall and Moose River Crossing. Acting credits include the TV series the Rez Sisters, Backroads and M.V.P.

Cheechoo said she still has an agent hut roles are few and far hetween for a 63-year-old ahoriginal woman.

"There's no roles for old women like me," she said.

She is married to artist Blake Dehassige. They have one son.

She has an honorary degree in letters from Laurentian University in Sudbury and has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Juhilee Award for her dedication to education.

She will hegin a three-year term as Brock chancellor at fall convocation. She succeeds husinessman and philanthropist Ned Goodman, who has heen chancellor since 2007.

She will he Brock's eighth chancellor in its 51-year history. She is the first woman and the first ahoriginal to he named Brock chancellor.

"We are thrilled to have her hecome the titular, symbolic head of our university," Brock president Jack Lightstone said in a release. "Among other things, we are at a time when Brock is opening new state-of-the-art facilities for our Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, and Dr. Cheechoo's artistic contrihution to our understanding of the lives and experiences of the ahoriginal peoples of Canada comes at a seminal moment in Canada's evolution."

rob.houle@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: RobH_Standard

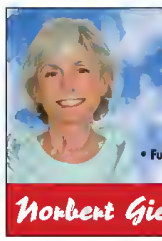
HOW A CHANCELLOR IS SELECTED

An advisory committee, chaired by the Senate chair and composed of faculty, students and staff invites nominations, the committee then makes a recommendation to the Senate.

Previous chancellors are Richard Hearn 1966-69; Charles Sankey 1969-74; Cecil Shaver 1974-80; Ralph Misener 1980-85; Robert Welch 1985-2000; Raymond Moriyama 2001-2007; Ned Goodman 2007-2015.

JOHN LAPPA

Filmmaker Shirley Cheechoo, middle, speaks with actors Micheline Blais, of Greater Sudbury, and Matthew Manitowabi on location at the VIA Rail train station in Sudbury in 2012. Cheechoo was shooting at the station for her film, Moose River Crossing, which she wrote and is directing.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■ FEARLESS CHALLENGE

MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Six-year-old Mason Risto of Welland makes his way through the SkyQuest rope course at Safari Niagara in Stevensville. Safari Niagara has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society for a unique fundraising event that encourages people to confront their fears.

What are you afraid of?

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Acrophobiacs unite.

Safari Niagara has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society for a unique fundraising event that encourages people to confront their fears to help those living with cancer do the same.

Participants in the Fearless Challenge create a challenge online or select from a list of challenges. There are a wide range of challenges listed, including skydiving, bungee jumping, being covered in spiders and eating strange food.

Once they reach their fundraising goal by collecting pledges, participants must commit to facing their fears and completing their challenge.

Participants with acrophobia — a fear of heights — are invited to tackle the daunting SkyQuest Ropes Course. The multi-level course takes participants as high as 15 metres off the ground while tethered to a harness.

"I don't know the statistics but I would imagine there's a high ratio of people who are scared of heights," said Dave Keith, director of sales and marketing at the Stevensville nature park.

There's no way to keep track of how many people will face their fears at the SkyQuest because participants register online, but Keith says "if we get three people or 100 people through, it's still great exposure for the cancer society."

THE FEARLESS CHALLENGE

- Fundraiser for Canadian Cancer Society
- Now until October
- Create or select a challenge, set and meet a fundraising goal, then complete challenge www.FearlessChallenge.com

Money raised through the challenge will fund cancer research as well as support services for cancer patients and their families.

"The Canadian Cancer Society is committed to creating a world where no Canadian fears cancer, but we are not there yet," said Sue Dalos, the agency's senior manager of marketing and development.

"Safari Niagara is a perfect fit for people to face their fear of heights."

Participants who raise a minimum $250 for their challenge will receive a discount on gate admission to Safari Niagara.

The Fearless Challenge continues until October.

For more information, please visit FearlessChallenge.com.

alison.langley@sunmedia.ca
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LOCALNEWS

COMMUNITY: Members to advise health system

POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, shown in a file photo, is helping form an NHS cancer advisory council.

NHS planning a cancer patient council

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

There came a point when Sandy McBay couldn't accept what she was hearing.

She'd already absorbed the worst news. She had breast cancer.

She was initially told she would not need chemotherapy, and the prospect of avoiding the physically draining side effects put a silver lining on the diagnosis.

But things changed quickly.

Her oncologist told her the cancer was a particularly aggressive type, and in fact the best course of action would be chemo.

"So I asked for my scans to be reviewed by another doctor, and then I had them reviewed again," McBay said. "My doctor was very patient and supportive."

The reviews confirmed the treatment plan her doctor recommended.

McBay said the process allowed her to better accept what was coming, and made her feel part of her treatment process.

As co-chair of a new Niagara Health System patient council for the Walker Family Cancer Centre, she hopes to help other cancer patients feel just as empowered.

"It's very important," McBay said.

"At the time, I needed to hear it again."

The NHS is looking for cancer patients, cancer survivors and their families to join the council, which will advise the NHS on how to improve the patient experience at the cancer centre.

McBay said the council will be made up 70% of patients and their families and 30% NHS medical staff.

She said they are aiming for a mix of past and current cancer patients.

New patients are sometimes so overwhelmed by the diagnosis of cancer, and the emotional maelstrom that creates, they are unable to digest the information they're given, McBay said.

So she expects one of the issues the council — which is likely to begin work in September — will tackle is how and when patients get information.

Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, NHS medical director of oncology, said the formation of a patient council has been in the works since the new cancer centre opened. The council won't provide medical advice, but will offer insight and input into the patient experience and guidance on how to improve it.

People interested in joining the council should phone the NHS at 905-378-4647 ext. 49142.

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St. Vincent de Paul Parish Peach Festival

73 Picton Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
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10:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.
White Elephant opens at 9:00a.m.

Bring your family and friends to an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship!

Bring your children, grandchildren or children from down the street to enjoy a great afternoon of fun! Come out and enjoy peach pies, peach crepes, peach punch, peach sundaes, hamburgers, pork on a bun, and fresh baked goods, Pick up some fresh peaches, or jam while browsing the jewellery table & white elephant table.

2015 Peach Celebration Event Schedule

Saturday, August 8 • 10 am - 4:30 pm • Queen Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake

10:00 am: Peach Market on Queen Street

Local growers will be set up on Queen Street selling freshly-picked Green-belt-grown peaches alongside churches and food vendors selling a variety of peach-infused treats including jams, pies, salsa and drinks. Browse the Merchant Sidewalk Sale for unique items.

11:00 am: Procession

Lead by the Fort George Fife & Drum Corps.

Live entertainment continues throughout the day with great jazz, bagpipes, Celtic music, historical displays, children's entertainment and more!

Noon • Front of the Courthouse Peach Pie Contest

Come find out who will have this year's tastiest peach pie! Takes place in front of the Courthouse.

Want to be a contender? Drop off your baked pie between 10 am to 11:30 am to the Chamber of Commerce Market Room 26 Queen Street, Lower Level.

6-10 pm: Evening Celebration of culinary, wine, beer and music

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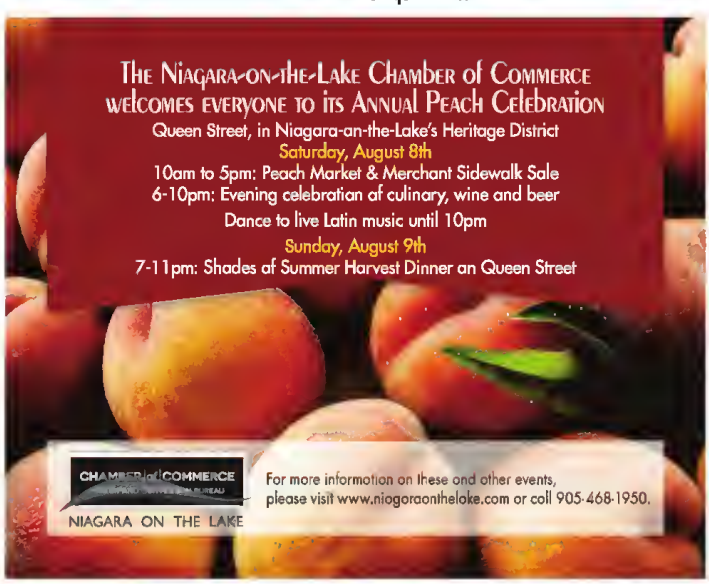

Sunday, August 9 • Event Schedule

10 am-3:30 pm: Annual St. Vincent de Paul Church Peach Festival

- Kids' corner with face-painting, crafts, balloon animals, reptiles and clown
- Pig Out hamburgers and hot dogs at noon
- Linda and Jackie providing live entertainment
- Jewellery and Bake tables featuring various peach items for sale including punch, crepes, jam, pies and sundaes

7-11 pm • Queen Street Shades of Summer Harevest Dinner

1,000 guests will sit down to enjoy a Shades of Summer Harvest Dinner presented by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Held outdoors on Queen Street between King and Regent, guests enjoy dinner and wine underneath the stars in a heritage setting, complemented with ambient music performed by Flat Brake.

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■ CLOSEUP

Hope for abused men of childhood sexual assault

CHERYL CLOCK
Postmedia Network

He kept it a secret for 40 years. Told no one. Stuffed it into an internal suitcase, closed the lid and locked it up.

Three years of his childhood.

The hay loft.

The old man with whiskey on his breath.

The whiskers.

A 40-year-old's body on top of a 10-year-old boy.

The money.

He thought he was the only one.

So he lived as if it never happened, or so he thought. But over years, the sexual abuse he endured in his childhood seeped out into his life like leachate from a dump.

It was toxic. It infected his body, his life and indeed his very soul, in ways even he didn't completely understand or realize. He felt uncontrollable outbursts of anger. He abused alcohol and drugs. He had trouble connecting with his wife. He suffered from inflammatory bowel syndmme. And depression. And remorse for his anger. He had no self esteem. And he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder.

And yet, he didn't connect his broken life to the years of abuse as a child.

Rob Witte of Fonthill is 57 years old. A husband. Father of two. He was 10 years old when the abuse started; 13 when it ended, just before be entered high school.

Three years ago he joined Hope for Men, a support group for men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

It was here, among men who cried with him because they've felt the same pain, and whose stories he listened to with a sad understanding, that he dared himself to open the suitcase a crack.

"I had stuffed it and thought I did a good job at burying it, but it was eating me from the inside," he says.

On this Tuesday night, he sits with three other men inside a small building that overlooks the Welland Canal Trail along Bunting Rd. in St. Catharines. They meet here every week, to share a part of their lives that even the people closest to them can't understand. They listen and talk. Heal. And find hope.

The group was founded by Glenn Allan, a survivor-turned-advocate of childhood sexual abuse. His journey began at age seven, when he fell on the ice during a public skate and was taken to the first aid room by an ice monitor. The man pulled the door shut and asked Glenn to pull down his pants so he could get a better look at his scrapes.

Then the man lowered his own pants. And underwear. And masturbated, pulling down Glenn's underwear and touching his genitals.

The man became Glenn's hockey and baseball coach and the abuse continued for eight years. In the coach's van. On the baseball diamond at night. In hotel rooms on road trips. In the passenger seat of his car as he drove Glenn to a game.

When men call about Hope for Men — there are groups in St. Catharines, Hamilton and soon, Brantford — they get Glenn. The men here say the group is safe. A place to feel grounded. Where men can be real. "No macho crap," says one.

It's not a program for women, adapted to men. It's about men.

Men need programs for men, says Tom Wilken, author of *Rebuilding Your House of Self-Respect*. He has worked as a counsellor for abused men at a crisis centre in Chatham and in the probation and parole system with offenders. And for eight years he ran the Silence to Hope program for male survivors, until funding ended last year.

Men face different issues in their recovery than women and there needs to be programs specifically for men, he says. Starting with counsellors trained to address and understand the consequences of abuse that include anger, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual identity issues, definitions of masculinity and incarceration.

In bis role as a probation and parole officer, he saw more victims of childhood sexual abuse than he did as a counsellor with the men's program.

"In the eyes of men, the sexual assault crisis centre for women is the last place they want to call," he says.

The men in Glenn's Hope for Men group talk about the awkwardness they've felt sitting in a waiting room for counselling at a crisis centre for women, and the fears and questions that were never addressed by counsellors: Am I gay?; Will I become an abuser?; Will I harm my children?

Indeed, there exists a general disbelief that men can be victims of assault, says Glenn.

"What they don't see is the little boy," he says.

Statistics from the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness show one in five boys, and one in three girls, will be sexually abused before they turn 18.

Glenn is convinced there are significantly more boys, especially younger ones, that are not reported because of fear, stigma and lack of resources, because men die by suicide without ever telling authorities about the abuse, and because of the numerous cases in the courts of pedophiles with likely multiple victims, most who never come forward.

"How many aren't counted?" he says.

Up to age 12, boys are just as often victimized as girls, says Glenn. One in every three.

"Even babies?" asks a man in the group.

"Even babies," says Glenn.

"Jesus Christ," the man whispers under his breath. "Sick," says another.

Rob was 10 years old, tobogganing by himself a half-mile from his home in Vineland. It was cold. A man he recognized from tbe neighbourhood approached and offered to show Rob horses in his barn. Rob could warm up, he suggested.

They walked to the barn together.

"That's when my life changed," says Rob.

The man was short and stocky with black stubble on his face and a cigarette in his mouth. He wore a cowboy hat, jeans and leather gloves. And he smelled of booze.

He reminded Rob of a flying monkey from *The Wizard of Oz*.

The abuse continued for three years. Every few weeks, Rob went to the bam, up into the hay loft. He still blames himself; agonizes over why he kept going back. The man paid him $40, sometimes $60 each time. It was a lot of money back then.

Rob was a Grade 5 student at a Christian school.

"I was mortified because I had sinned against God big time," be says.

"I knew I was lost. There was no way back and I was going to hell."

His spirit was bmken. And in his mind, his soul beyond redemption and his life was without worth. It was, quite simply, easy to stop caring.

As Rob tells his story, a man across from him is crying. Silently.

Sexual abuse is about power and control, says Glenn. Boys are groomed. The perpetrator carefully builds a trusting relationship, and then manipulates the boy's vulnerabilities so he doesn't snitch.

You had an erection so you enjoyed it, too.

Everyone will think you're gay.

The abuse to Rob continued until one day, just before starting high school, he was so terrified his friends would find out, that he visited the hay loft one last time. He was bigger, faster than the man, and he took the money and fled.

Eventually, though, the demons caught up to him.

He drank to keep his suitcase locked. To stop the shame and guilt from bleeding out. His veneer was bad-ass yet he secretly wondered, Am I gay? Will I become an abuser myself? Will I be a pedophile? He stifled an inescapable sense of failure with cocaine and LSD. He would rather hurt himself before someone else could hurt him again.

HOPE FOR MEN

To learn more about Glenn Allan and his group for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, visit http://hopeformen.ca/ or 905-975-6455.

Male and female survivors of sexual abuse

What's similar:

More likely to be abused by someone they know.

Perpetrator most often a heterosexual male.

Perpetrator holds power and control over the victim, and is in a position of trust.

Survivors may struggle with depression, low self-esteem, blame, anxiety, relationship troubles, a tendency to be over-controlling or too submissive, an inability to trust oneself and others, problems defining healthy sexuality, self-destructive behaviours including suicide, dealing with anger, stress related illnesses, addictions, eating disorders, acting out sexually.

What's different

Mostly female concerns:

Greater chance abuse takes place in the home, by someone related to the victim.

Survivors are at greater risk of abusing alcohol.

Increased chance of being re-victimized as teenagers and young adults.

More likely to receive support when dealing with recovery issues.

Compared to men, women deal with sadness and depression in the early stages of recovery. Their anger surfaces later in the healing process.

Among victims of childhood sexual abuse, girls are fondled more often than boys.

Mostly male concerns:

Boys are more often abused by teachers, coaches and baby sitters.

Survivors struggle with their sexual identity and fears of homosexuality.

Male survivors and their parents are more likely to minimize the impact of the sexual abuse.

Male survivors are more likely to abuse drugs.

Boys are more likely to be sodomized than girls.

Men are likely to experience anger and rage in the early stages of recovery. Feelings of grief tend to surface later in the healing process. Men have more struggles with feelings of powerlessness, and the chances of active and violent revenge fantasies are greater.

Source: Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse, Health Canada. A report by Tom Wilken. For more information on Hope for Men, visit http://hopeformen.ca

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■ NOT ALL VICTIMS REPORT CRIMES TO POLICE

Justice for sex trade workers

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Her reasons for selling her body on seedy Niagara streets are her own.

Poverty might have driven her to prostitution. Perhaps she needed quick cash to fuel an all-consuming drug addiction. Maybe she was being forced against her will to succumb to the desires of strangers.

She may consented to sex, but she never consented to being violently assaulted.

"She is somebody's daughter, somebody's sister, somebody's wife," said Deb Nanson, an advocate for the safety of women working in the sex trade and program director with Terry's Evergreen Addiction Recovery Services.

"Sex work is what she does. It is not who she is."

On July 7, a sex trade worker was walking in the Gale Cres./Queenston St. area of St. Catharines when she was approached by a male.

The woman agreed to accompany the man and he drove to a nearby location.

After they arrived, the man viciously attacked her.

"He attacked her almost immediately and it was a very serious assault," said Det. Brian Essery, of the Niagara Regional Police sexual assault unit.

She struggled to get away and cried out for help.

"Her screams were overheard by a witness in a nearby residence and the witness contacted police," the detective said.

The man fled before police arrived.

Four days later, a Niagara Falls man was arrested and charged with a slew of offences including sexual assault, forcible confinement and dangerous driving.

Tyler Woods, 22, was released on bail in July. Conditions of his release include that he abide by a curfew and he not be in the driver's seat of a vehicle unless his surety is with him.

He'll return to court in St. Catharines in August to answer to the charges.

Meanwhile, the victim, a woman in her 20s, continues to recover from the attack.

In all likelihood, whatever demons are haunting her have forced her to return to the streets.

"I don't think she gets up every day and says 'Well, I'm going to do this again.' But she might not have a choice," Nanson said. "What do you expect her to do?"

Nanson, a former sex trade worker, understands.

"When I was a child I wanted to be a lawyer," she said.

"I didn't wake up every morning and say I think I'm going to stand on Gale Cres. and turn tricks and hope somebody picks me up and tries to take my life."

Nanson credits local police with making a quick arrest in the case. She said many sex trade workers who are victims of violence never report the incident to police.

"I hope they continue to treat these women as human beings and not just sex trade workers," she said. "No means no. No matter what your circumstances are."

Essery agreed.

"When we have a sex trade worker come forward we take it very seriously as a unit but, unfortunately, they don't all come forward," he said.

"These women are so vulnerable."

Working in the sex trade makes them a vulnerable target and predators count on the fact they are not likely to report any crimes against them.

The five-member police unit investigates sex-related matters involving complainants 16 and over. Cases involving children under 16 are handled by the NRP child abuse unit.

Essery and his colleagues have investigated a number of cases where men have attacked prostitutes and escorts.

"I don't think it's rare," he said. "I think it's a lot more common than we hear about."

In some cases, the violence escalates to murder.

Stephine Beck, a 29-year-old St. Catharines resident, was strangled to death in March 2007.

Wayne Ryczak, also of St. Catharines, was later convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to one day in jail. The sentence was in addition to time Ryczak had already served in jail since his arrest — time the judge said was equivalent to 30 months.

Michael Durant, of Niagara Falls, was convicted in 2012 to two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of Diane Dimitri in 2003 and 22-year-old Cassey Cichocki in 2006.

He was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

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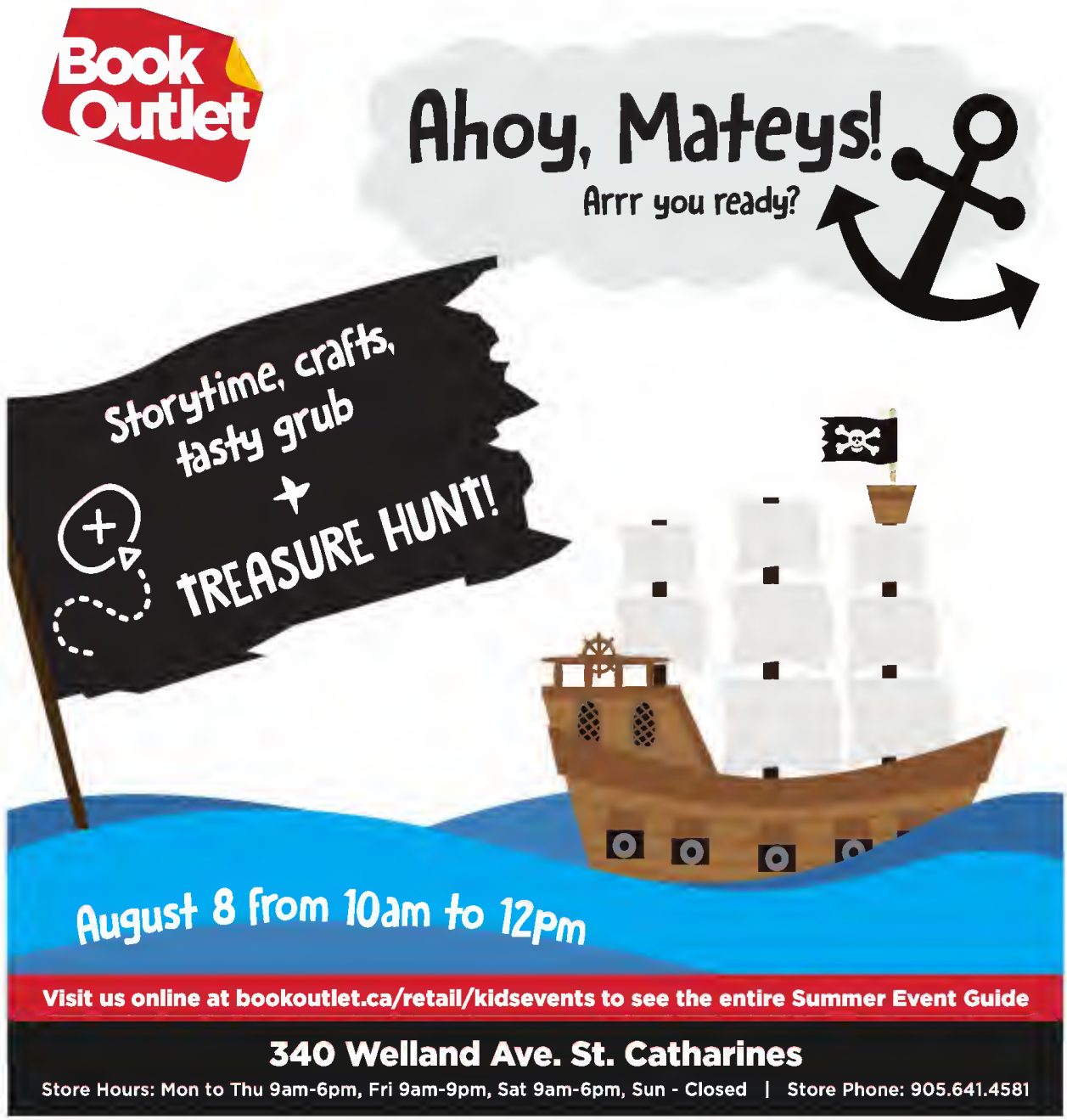
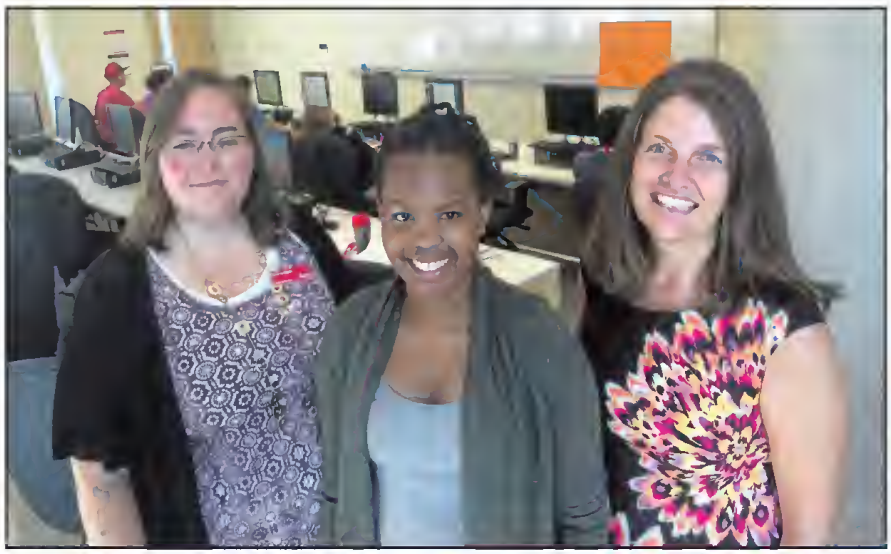


LOCALNEWS

■ UNIVERSITY PREP PROGRAM



DON FRASER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Brock's University preparation program coordinator Susan McGlynn, left, program participant Jahnyah Learmond and Youth University director Kate Cassidy inside a UPP class held inside the Cairns building.

Busting barriers to post-secondary education

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Jahnyah Learmond has her heart set on physiotherapy studies in university.

But she has also worried that post-secondary funding and family time management could make it a stretch.

A recent exposure to a new Brock University program is changing her views.

She's realizing scholarships alternatives and organizational skills will help her dream happen.

"If I could go to university it next year, I would do it," said Learmond, who splits her time between St. Catharines and Whitby and has completed Grade 10 at Denis Morris High School.

"Now I know what I need to take for Grade 11 and 12," said the 16-year-old. "And at university there is help if you have problems in classes, and I'm also learning how to prioritize and organize with time."

Learmond — who is thinking about going to Queen's University — is part of a just-launched university preparation program for Niagara high schools.

The pilot program is a two-week, tuition-free experience for students who might not otherwise pursue a post-secondary education.

Young people who are entering grades 10 to 12 are identified by schools or social-service agencies as ideal candidates.

They may have parents with no post-secondary education, come from a lower income family, live in a rural area identify as aboriginal or have a disability or have other issues that could serve as barriers.

Programs include workshops to prepare for careers and post-secondary preparation, communication skills, leadership training and community service.

Afterwards, participants get support and access to services from Brock through the rest of their time in high school.

Youth University director Kate Cassidy said about 40 people are taking part in the program over four sessions this summer.

"Research shows there are certain populations that are less likely to even consider university," Cassidy said.

"And it can be a very daunting and difficult thing to understand the cultures and way of university."

"We've designed the program based on what we know are some of the reasons people wouldn't consider university, such as not understanding financial support, or misperceptions of how much it costs ... understanding what careers they might want," Cassidy said.

Preparation program co-ordinator Susan McGlynn said a key part of the program is to motivate.

"We're trying to show them if you want post-secondary education, it can happen," she said.

"We're trying to help them consider the obstacles in their way and then how to overcome them, and that there are resources available to support them."

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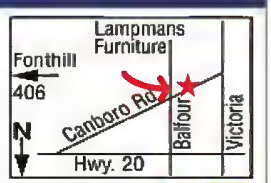
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